



Antique Spelter Football Player
Henri Fugère

£360



REF: 31927

Height: 22 cm (8.7")

Width: 21 cm (8.3")

Depth: 15 cm (5.9")

Description

Antique Spelter Footballer by Henri Fugère.

This striking Art Deco figure of a football player was created by the renowned French sculptor Henri Fugère, one of the leading decorative artists of the early 20th century. Produced in France around 1930, the sculpture is cast in spelter, a white metal alloy often used in the lost-wax casting process, and bears Fugère's signature within the casting.

Fugère studied at the prestigious École des Beaux-Arts in Paris under celebrated masters Louis-Ernest Barrias and Jean-Antoine Injalbert Puech. Although best known for his elegant Art Deco bronzes of dancers, he also demonstrated a remarkable talent for capturing the realism and movement of workers, soldiers and athletes. This footballer is an excellent example of that versatility.

The figure depicts a football player caught in a dynamic moment, poised to strike a period leather football with his left foot. Dressed in a short-sleeved shirt, long shorts, calf-length socks and laced leather boots with studs and reinforced toe protectors, the footballer is rendered with convincing anatomical detail and a strong sense of motion. The bronzed spelter surface displays an attractive weathered verdigris patina, with subtle green-brown tonal variations.

Firmly rooted in the Art Deco period's fascination with athleticism, energy and modern life, the sculpture combines decorative elegance with sporting nostalgia. Mounted on a rectangular plinth base, it is a well-proportioned and highly displayable piece, ideal for a desk, cabinet or shelf. With its distinctive period character, signed provenance and appealing sporting subject matter, this early 20th-century French sculpture will particularly appeal to collectors of Art Deco works, antique spelter figures and vintage sporting memorabilia.